

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment claims 23-29 have been added.

The Office Action states that claims 11-22 are pending in the application. However, claim 12 was cancelled in the Amendment mailed September 5, 2006. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 11 and 13-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,893,618 to Herzberg.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 11 and 13-29 are allowable. Specifically, claim 11 recites a system for fixation of fractures comprising a chassis and one or more fixation elements in the form of screws and/or pins. Each fixation element is received in the chassis in such a way that it is locked by friction regarding movement in axial, rotational and angular directions. The frictional locking of the fixation elements is given by means of the material of the chassis having an elasticity giving a locking effect by means of friction on the fixation elements. None of the cited prior art describes or suggests a system for fixation of fractures as set forth in claim 1.

The Herzberg patent describes a fixation member 40 for firmly securing the nails or screws 12 on the tube-shaped portions 11. Accordingly, the nails or screws 12 are not received in the tube-shaped portions 11 in such a way as to be locked by friction regarding movement in axial, rotational and angular directions. Furthermore, the locking of the nails or screws 12 in the tube-shaped portions 11 is not given by means of the material of the tube-shaped portions 12 having an

elasticity giving a locking effect by means of friction on the fixation elements. Thus, claim 11 is allowable.

Claims 13-22 depend from claim 11 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 11 and for the specific recitations therein.

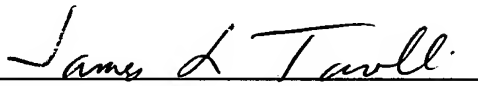
Claim 23 recites an apparatus for fixation of fractures including a chassis and a fixation element connected with the chassis. The fixation element is connected to the chassis only by frictional engagement with the chassis to prevent axial, rotational and angular movement of the fixation element relative to the chassis. None of the cited prior art describes or suggests an apparatus as set forth in claim 23. Thus, claim 23 is allowable.

Claims 24-29 depend from claim 23 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 23 and for the specific recitations therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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